

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Fact Sheet: Proposed SSAC for Econfina River (WBID 3402)

Location Information	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Taylor & Madison County, Florida – Panhandle East nutrient watershed region, Econfina-Steinhatchee watershed (CDA Code G086x). 2. SSAC begins at 30°5'20.450"N, 83°53'10.902"W and extends upstream in the main channel and tributaries of the Econfina River (WBID 3402). 3. Map attached.
Numeric Nutrient Criteria Comparison	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Currently applicable criteria are: TN=1.03 mg/l TP=0.18 mg/l HDR/HydroQual Technical Memo and 2009 USEPA Fenholloway TMDL attached. 2. SSAC requested for TN and TP: Proposed TN SSAC = 1.49 mg/l Proposed TP SSAC = 0.11 mg/l
Synopsis of Protection of Designated Use	<p>The application used Site-Specific Biological, Chemical, and Physical Data to demonstrate the Econfina River; WBID 3402 is currently achieving its designated uses as it relates to nutrients.</p> <p>Station TAY170LR in the lower end of WBID 3402 is considered by FDEP to be a candidate reference site based on the LDI Index score of 1.14 suggesting benign human influences in the watershed. The site TN and TP geometric mean for 2005 and 2006 were 1.29 and 1.06 mg/l, and 0.08 and 0.03 mg/l respectively. FDEP concluded about the TAY170LR site that "...not only are the nutrients concentrations reflective of minimally disturbed conditions, they are associated with biota demonstrated to be fully supportive of designated use (healthy, well balanced populations of aquatic organisms)."</p> <p>There are no point source discharges in WBID 3402 and the watershed LDI is 1.47. From 1996 to 1998, a total of 18 SCIs were performed at a site located approximately 3000 m upstream of TAY170LR as part of a study to evaluate the effectiveness of forestry best management practices. All 18 of these SCIs scored in the category referred to as "excellent" in the earlier version of the index, indicating that this site has a long demonstrated history of healthy biota. From 2004 to 2008, 8 additional SCIs were performed in this WBID with scores ranging from 40 to 59 and an average of 50, demonstrating continued healthy biota.</p> <p>The proposed SSAC maintains the historical concentrations of nutrients based on demonstrated achievement of designated use. This is an increase in TN and a decrease in TP from current applicable concentrations. Current levels of TN are fully supportive of designated uses. While the current applicable criteria for TP may be fully supportive of designated uses within WBID 3402, current levels of TP need to be maintained to support the protection afforded by the non point source load allocation associated with EPA Region 4 Nutrient TMDL for Fenholloway River, Econfina River Basin, dated January 2009, for the estuarine and coastal receiving waters.</p>
History of Assessment	<p>WBID 3402 is in the Group 1 303(d) list and has been determined to be supporting its uses for all water quality parameters associated with nutrients. Per the EPA Region 4, Amended Decision Document dated September 2, 2009; WBID 3402 is listed for dissolved oxygen, lead and mercury. The dissolved oxygen is placed in the 4d category indicating a causative pollutant has not been identified. FDEP indicates it should be in category 4c indicating impairment is not caused by a pollutant and a dissolved oxygen site specific alternative criteria should be developed for this WBID. This assessment is consistent with EPA Region 4 dissolved oxygen TMDL for Fenholloway River, Econfina Basin, April 2007, which concluded the low DO levels in the Econfina are representative of "normal healthy blackwater systems" and an alternative DO criterion appears to be warranted for streams in the Econfina River Basin.</p>
Identification of Downstream Waters	Econfina Estuary and Adjacent Coastal Waters – Marine WBIDs 3402A and 8029

Map 1. Econfina River WBIDs and WQ stations

